UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/792
23 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter dated 21 August 1998 (S/1998/786), I have the honour to enclose herewith a cable message from H.E. Bishop Gobrial Roric, State Minister for External Relations in which the Minister provides more details about "al-Shifa" Pharmaceutical Factory destroyed by the American aggression

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its enclosure to the attention of the Members of the Security Council and distribute it as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

98-24633 (E) 230898 230898

/...

Annex

[Original: Arabi

Letter dated 22 August 1998 from the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 21 August 1998 (S/1998/786, annex) in which I informed you of the details of the United States aggression on Thursday, 20 August 1998 against the Shifa pharmaceutical factory, I wish to inform you that the factory is located in the industrial district of Khartoum North. It has an area of 2,100 square metres and it was built at a cost of 32 million United States dollars. The factory is fully owned by the private sector. It was established by a well-known Sudanese businessman, Bashir Hasan Bashir, who owned a 60 per cent share in the factory at the time, the remaining 40 per cen being owned by the Ba'abood Shipping Company, another Sudanese company. The Bank of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) contributed to financing the construction of the factory in the amount of 6 million dollars. On 29 March 1998, the owner, Mr. Bashir, sold the factory to another well-known Sudanese businessman, Mr. Salah Idris. The Shifa factory, the largest pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan, was designed by a United States expert, Mr. Henry Jobe, who is employed by the MSD Pharmaceutical Company and who is very experienced, having worked for about 30 years in this field.

The Shifa Company comprises three factories producing drugs for human use and one factory for veterinary medicines. Over seven different lines of drugs were produced at the factory which used modern machinery imported from the United States of America, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, India and Thailand.

The Shifa factory was established in order to provide the medicines required by the Sudan at low cost. In fact, the company was able to market 30 different types of pharmaceutical drugs for human use and 10 veterinary medicines, covering 90 per cent of the Sudan's requirements in terms of medicines for treating animals.

The types of drug produced by the factory comprise medicines for children antibiotics, anti-malarial drugs and remedies for the treatment of hypertensic diabetes, ulcers, pulmonary tuberculosis and rheumatism. It is the only factc in the Sudan producing a drug for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis; wit respect to the price of this drug, a single dose sells for 66,000 Sudanese pounds, which is equal to about 33 United States dollars, while a single dose the same drug, if imported, costs 200,000 Sudanese pounds or about 100 United States dollars. The Shifa pharmaceutical factory allocated 60 per cent of its output to the local market and exported 40 per cent to many countries includir Yemen, Chad and Nigeria, and recently Iraq in accordance with the approval granted by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. The approval wa: issued as number S/AC.25/1998/986/OC.1401 dated 13 January 1998; it was valid

/

until 12 July 1998 and was renewed by authorization number S/AC.25/1998/986/OC.1402/EXIT, valid until 8 January 1999.

The factory had recently been visited by a number of dignitaries visiting the Sudan, including:

The President of the Republic of Niger, accompanied by the Minister of Health;

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso;

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya;

The President of the Bank of the Preferential Trade Agreement;

Mr. Hussein El-Gazazi, Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, World Health Organization;

The former Minister of Health of Yemen;

The former Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Sudan;

The German Ambassador to the Sudan;

The Director of Medical Supplies of Chad;

Delegations from the Union of Arab Doctors;

Delegations from the Union of Arab Veterinary Surgeons.

The factory has also been visited by more than 2,000 Sudanese pharmacists, doctors, specialists and interns, together with all the veterinary surgeons in Khartoum province and the Association of Shepherds. The factory remained permanently open to visitors, including school pupils.

The United States aggression totally destroyed the factory, causing human casualties, including many dead and injured. The Council will be provided later with details of the human casualties. As for material damage, the preliminary assessment is as follows:

1. Premises and machinery to the value of 32 million dollars;

2. Empty bottles, other containers, and machinery for the manufacture of dermatological preparations: 3 million dollars;

3. Raw materials for use by the factory: 5 million dollars.

In addition, the United States aggression destroyed the jobs of the 306 employees of the factory, on whom about 3,000 members of their families are dependent.

In the light of the above facts, we reiterate that the United States allegations are baseless. On behalf of the Government of the Sudan, I should like once again to request the Council to send a fact-finding and verification team to visit the Sudan, to ascertain the nature of the factory's activities and to study what remains of it in order to find out whether it contains anything that supports the United States allegations. The team could also contact the countries and firms from which the factory purchased the equipment and machinery in order to obtain their scientific specifications and production capabilities.

I am hopeful that the Security Council will discharge its duties and responsibilities as specified in the Charter, and that it will respond to this request in the interest of maintaining international peace and security. I also hope that the United States Administration will have the courage to accept the findings of the verification team, that it will admit its crime and take full responsibility for the damage it has inflicted on the Sudan and its people by means of this treacherous attack which targeted one of the most important necessities of life, namely, the right to medical treatment.

In conclusion, we assure you that the Sudan is ready to receive the verification team at your convenience, to cooperate with it and to extend to it every facility to enable it to carry out its task.

(Signed) Gobrial RORIC
Minister of State at
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs